

# PRESIDENT DISCLOSES A LACK OF DATA ON WITHDRAWAL BY REDS

Plan Sought To Control Training Of Agents;  
Chief Executive Decides This Is Not  
Winter Of U.S. Discontent

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New York, March 6 (AP)—Capt. Eddie Rick-enbacker, chairman of the Committee for the Monroe Doctrine, said tonight "President Kennedy's Administration has not yet shown that it has the will" to remove the Communist threat in Cuba.

The World War I ace and Eastern Air Lines executive said only the will is lacking.

"The United States, as the most powerful nation of the hemisphere, has the means to remove this threat forthwith and thus fulfill its responsibilities to its neighbors and to its own security," he asserted in a statement.

## And Cuba

By WILLIAM KNIGHTON, JR.  
(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, March 6 — President Kennedy declared today he is not satisfied with the rate at which the Russian troops in Cuba are being removed.

Mr. Kennedy's continued dissatisfaction with the Cuban situation was shown in a cryptic answer to a three-part question asked him at his press conference.

The question was whether he had any accurate information of the number of Soviet troops removed from Cuba, was he satisfied with the rate of withdrawal, and had the Russians offered any provision for verification of the withdrawal?

"No," the President replied. "The answer to your question would really be 'no' to all of them."

### Program Sought

The Chief Executive disclosed that the same areas of the hemisphere, the United States is seeking to develop a program

for the control of the movement of Communists into Cuba for training and their return to their home countries as subversive agents and saboteurs.

In reply to other questions on the subject of Cuba, the Chief Executive warned that a naval blockade of the Communist-controlled island might lead to a war with Russia, said that the CIA and the intelligence services of the Defense Department have done a good job in relation to the crisis and said he sees no prospect that normal relations between the United States and Cuba might be resumed so long as the island remains under Communist control and is the training ground for guerrilla work in other parts of the hemisphere.

The Chief Executive was asked if he would comment on charges by some members of Congress that the Administration has been deliberately withholding important information on the Cuban situation, the questioner citing the claims made that John A. McCone, director of the CIA, actually knew before October 14 that the Russians had planted offensive missiles on the island.

"No," said the President, but he added he had "seen charges of all kinds."

"One day, a distinguished Republican charges that it is all the CIA's fault, and the next day it is the Defense Department's fault, and the next day the CIA is being made the scapegoat by another distinguished leader."

"So that we could not possibly answer these charges, which come so fast and so furiously."

"Mr. Arends (GOP House whip) said the other day that the testimony by the Air Force before the committee indicates that we knew all about this October 10, even though General (Curtis) LeMay (Air Force chief of staff) made it very clear in the same testimony that the Air Force didn't have such information. So we are not in a position to answer these."

"I think, in hindsight, I suppose we could have always perhaps picked up these missile bases a few days earlier, but not many days earlier, because the missiles didn't come in, at least in hindsight, it now appears, until some time around the middle of September."

"The installations began at a later date. They were very fast, and I think the photography on the same areas, if we had known that missiles were going in ten days before, might not have picked up anything."

"The week before might have picked up something. Even the pictures taken October 14 were only obvious to the most sophisticated expert."

"It was not until the pictures taken, really the sixteenth and seventeenth, that you had pictures that would be generally acceptable."

### "Very Clandestine Operation"

"So this was a very clandestine and fast operation."

"So I feel that the intelligence services did a very good job. When you think that the job was done, the missiles were discovered, the missiles were removed, the bombers were discovered, the bombers were removed, I don't think that anybody should feel that anything but a good job was done."

"I think we can always improve, and particularly with the advantage of hindsight."

"I am satisfied with Mr. McCone, the intelligence community, the Defense Department and the job they did in those days, particularly taken in totality."

### San Jose Meeting Mentioned

The President was asked to outline some of his ideas he will present to the presidents of Central American countries at their meeting later this month at San Jose, Costa Rica, concerning the Cuban problem.

Mr. Kennedy replied that one is the question of the movement of persons out of Latin American nations to Cuba for training there as guerrillas and for subversion when they return to their homelands.

But he noted that action to ward off such activities must be taken by the individual countries involved. The United States has made proposals to them to prevent this sort of sabotage, and there is a committee of the Organization of American States also working on this problem.

"Now it is up to the Latin American countries. I would hope that in common consultation as well as individually, to take those steps which will control the movement of people in and out," he added.